CHINA WEEKLY

REVIEW

密勒氏評論報

A Weekly Newspaper Established In 1917

Open Letter To Passengers On

THE GENERAL GORDON

WARFARE IN MALAYA

S. T. PATRAS

PEOPLE'S THEATRE IN JAPAN

HUGH DEANE

"When Father Brought Back A Pair Of New Leather Shoes" . . . A Short Story

SEPTEMBER 24, 1949

JMP 700

上海中正東路一六〇號密勒氏評論報發行
上海香港路一一七號美靈登有限公司承印

THE CHINA WEEKLY REVIEW

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Subscription Rates

	3 months
Shanghai and China Outports (ordinary mail delivery)	JMP 8,500
Hongkong (ordinary mail delivery)	JMP 9,000

	6 months	*1 year*
U.S.A. and other Foreign Countries	US$5.00	US$9.00

Price per copy: JMP 700

STUDENT RATES

	3 months
Shanghai and China Outports (ordinary mail delivery)	JMP 7,000

(All subscriptions must be authenticated by the individual student's school and must be sent directly to the offices of the China Weekly Review.)

All mail rates are subject to change in accordance with postal changes.
Cable Address: "Reviewing" Shanghai **Telephone: 14772**

Published at 160 Chung Cheng Road (Eastern), Shanghai(0), China, by Millard Publishing Company, Incorporated under the Laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A. Registered at the Chinese Post Office as a newspaper for transmission with special marks privileges in China. Printed by the Millington Limited, 117 Hongkong Road, Shanghai, China.

Contents of previous issues of the China Weekly Review may be found in the "International Index of Periodicals," copies of which are on file in most standard libraries.

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LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of The China Weekly Review.

National Flag

To The Editor:

It seems to me that there are two things of vital importance to every citizen—a national language and national flag.

At present we have no national flag except the Communist Army flag which is made of two colors—red and yellow. On the flag is a pentagonal star with the five angles representing the five tribes of people—Hans, Manchus, Mongolians, Mohammedans and Tibetans. This star is symbolical of the unity of the five tribes, and it is also symbolical of the liberation of the Chinese people who suffered so much in the past from government corruption. May the star shine bright, lighting up every corner of China and driving away darkness and corruption forever.

JO-SAN CHEN

Hangchow
September 8, 1949

"Natural" Basis

To The Editor:

I would like to ask a question of you or some of your readers. Last week I read a story from Prague telling of a protest to the Czechoslovak government by the country's Catholic bishops who objected to what they called the oppression of the church.

Replying to the charge that the Catholic Church was a defender of capitalism, the bishops declared that they did not defend capitalism at all. In fact they indicated that they disapproved of it. They quoted the words of two popes who, they said, had issued statements attacking capitalism and calling for social progress.

I could hardly believe this since it did not sound much like the usual stand taken by Catholics. However, my wonderment was short-lived for the bishops went on to say: "Of course, capitalism must not be mistaken for private ownership, which the church has always protected and always will protect as being the natural basis of human society."

Maybe I am wrong and perhaps one of your Catholic readers can correct my error, but it seems to me that there is some confusion in this statement. In the first place, as I understand it, the government of Czechoslovakia does not object to private property. There is a difference between private property, such as an individual's automobile, house, and other personal possessions, and private ownership of the means of production which is the ownership of tools which another person must rent in order to earn his living. This, fundamentally, is what happens to a worker in a factory. If he is not to starve, he must go to the man who owns the factory and agree to make materials with that man's tools and in return the owner of the tools pays him a wage which is considerably less than the value of the work performed by the laborer. This is exploitation.

This, I think, is really what the Czech Catholic bishops mean when they say "private property." They actually

(Continued on page 56)

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The editorial pages present each week the opinions of the editor. The other pages of The China Weekly Review are written by the other members of the staff and the contributing editors who report and interpret the news irrespective of the views expressed in the editorials.

Vol. 115 Shanghai, Saturday, September 24, 1949 No. 4

WORLD'S RICHEST REFUGEES

WHEN we used to write of corruption in the old days we were always hard put to obtain really adequate proof, i.e. proof which could be used in court as evidence in the event that our statements were challenged. Thus we were usually forced to avoid naming names and stating specific cases. We had to content ourselves with oblique references to a "former high official," or to an "important party personage," or merely to complain about the widespread corruption which we all *knew* to be present.

Now, however, it is possible to give facts and figures. It is also possible to give more of these details than it ever was in the past because, with the hurried departure of the plunderers, many records were inadvertently left behind. In addition, many junior employees of the banks, bureaucratic trading concerns, and other organizations are now able to talk without fear of the wrath of their former masters.

While stories of corruption and misuse of office may have become somewhat boring to many of our readers, it is important, we believe, to put some facts and figures on the record. All too often the public is inclined to dismiss stories of excesses in days past as merely propaganda put out at the time and as unlikely to be true. Certainly the incredible record to the KMT's reign should be set down as an important piece of history.

Very few days pass without the local press carrying a story about how this or that KMT official's corruption has been discovered. Frequently such stories describe the trial in court of one of the less lucky Kuomintang members who failed to get away before the Liberation.

Such was the story one day last week telling of the discovery of one more company owned by General Tang En-po, Shanghai's last KMT commander. This firm, the Ting Chang Trading Company, was organized by Tang shortly after VJ Day. As its manager he appointed one Chen Min-chun, the same man he also appointed to take over enemy and puppet property. Tang, it will be recalled, was also the first KMT general to arrive in Shanghai following the Japanese surrender. The company, because of its close connections, managed to carry on a thriving business from the time of its establishment until the Liberation.

While such an account may seem unusual to some of our readers not so closely concerned with life in Shanghai in days past, it is a very common type of story to local residents, who have witnessed each succeeding commander or other high official set up his own "company" to take advantage of his official position.

Although such stories of past corruption are to be discovered almost daily, they really were only small operations compared to the really big looting done by the members of the so-called Big Four Families and their close friends and associates. In one local bank, in which the aforementioned families had interests, the investigating officers of the People's Government discovered more than 40 secret accounts.

This type of bank account, it might be explained, was used in many different ways to milk the public. The most common practice was for, say T. V. Soong, Chen Li-fu, or some other important politico to maintain one or more such accounts in the Central Bank, Bank of China, or other government banks. Upon occasion Soong or Chen, or some other big shot —virtually all of whom either were directors or appointees of directors of the more important banks—would simply order a certain sum of government or party funds to be transferred to account "X" or "A" for one or two weeks, at the end of which time the money would be transferred back to the government's general account.

Quite a bit could be done in such a short period because often it was possible to double one's money in a day or two as interest rates used to run as high as 50 percent per day. This is an especially easy and pleasant way to pile up wealth when one can operate—without charge—upon someone else's money.

* * * * *

THE biggest steal of all time, though, was accomplished by Chiang Kai-shek through the currency conversion scheme just a little more than a year ago when he introduced the Gold Yuan and forced the people to turn in their gold, silver, and foreign exchange for the new paper money. It is estimated by banking officials that Chiang netted about the equivalent of US$300,000,000. There is little evidence that more than about US$100,000,000 has been spent so far and since the National Government of Li Tsung-jen is admittedly broke, where is the remaining US$200,000,000? According to former KMT banking and military officials left behind at the time of Tang En-po's flight, it was shipped to Taiwan on orders signed personally by Chiang.

The *China Digest*, a Communist magazine published in Hongkong, recently compiled a list of monies and materials removed from China during the last days of the KMT. While the list is entirely too long to reprint in these columns, a few choice items are worth noting.

"In 1945-46," the *Digest* states, "the CC Clique, with Chiang's approval, bought more than US$20,000,000 worth of bonds with KMT party funds. With Chiang's special permission these bonds were later cashed. . . . This entire sum . . . was shifted to Hongkong early in March (1949). . . . In 1947, the Farmers' Educational Motion Picture Co., under Chen Kuo-fu, (brother of Chen Li-fu) procured US$2,000,000 worth of foreign exchange. . . . The greater part of this fund has not been touched yet. . . . In April (1949) the CC-controlled press, including the *Central Daily News*, the *Wu-Han Daily*, and the *Southeastern Daily*, removed their presses and paper stocks to Hongkong and Taiwan. . . . The CC-owned Chung Cheng Book Company auctioned off 1,000 tons of paper in Hongkong.

"In May the China Vegetable Oil Corporation (headed by C. C. Chang, brother of former governor of the Central Bank Chang Chia-ngau), a semi-government corporation, brought 25,000 drums of tung oil to Hongkong. . . . The Hongkong branch of the CVOC was renamed the South Pacific Oil Company. From Shanghai and Chungking Chang's Southwestern Trading Company also removed its capital to Hongkong. . . . Toward the end of May it was estimated that gold, silver, foreign currency, bristles, and silk shipped by air to Hongkong were valued at not less than US$25,000,000. . . .

"Departments and offices that handle supplies and provisions like the Materials Supply Bureau and the Rear Service Department often secretly sell their materials in Hongkong in exchange for foreign currency. In the beginning of June a consignment of buoys was sold in Hongkong through lawyers and auctioneers. . . . The Central Trust shipped 3,000 tons of bristles to Hongkong in June, keeping them in warehouses in the name of a British company. In December of last year the Central Trust shipped 2,000 tons of tung oil and other materials to the United States for safe custody. . . ."

* * *

THE foregoing is only part of the list, but it is more than enough to see just how the country has been looted. It should be remembered that while much of the material shipped by one or another of the government organs, say for example, the Central Trust, is theoretically the property of the National Government, it is quickly being sold for cash which goes into the pockets of Chiang Kai-shek, his family, and the small group of men who make up his entourage, such as the Chen brothers, a half dozen or so trusted generals, and a few others.

Proof that the money does not go to the government can be seen from the fact, publicly lamented by the current president of the Nationalist regime, that the government is broke. The government has no money to pay either its troops or civil servants. Thousands of the latter, who forcibly or willingly accompanied the government in its flight from Nanking to Canton, have been summarily dismissed because of lack of funds.

One further point which should be remembered is that virtually all of these materials and valuables shipped to Hongkong, the United States, or other foreign havens, were bought by the government, through its various official or semi-official trading concerns with paper currency which had no backing whatsoever and which was ground off the presses as fast as possible. It cannot even be argued that the government "hoped" that the currency would have value. The KMT has admittedly lived off the printing press for more than a decade. The mounting inflation during this period amply confirms this admission.

We cannot recall a grander or more successful "steal" in history. Even the sacking of whole provinces by the barbarians in ancient times undoubtedly never netted anything comparable to the haul made, and still being made, by the Kuomintang. The "White" Chinese, as the fleeing Nationalist officials are being referred to, are without doubt the world's richest refugees to date.

25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Chinese in Dutch East Indies

September 20, 1924

The social conditions among the Chinese in the Dutch Indies is interesting. There are two main classes, the pure blooded, and the Chinese-Malay mixture and Dutch-born Chinese not all of whom have Malay blood. In the early days practically no Chinese women emigrated from their homeland. It has been only during the past half century that Chinese women have gone to settle in lands overseas where their men relatives have traded and settled for hundreds of years.

* * *

Fighting in North China

The fear that the war between Chekiang and Kiangsu provinces for the possession of the area around Shanghai would embroil all China in civil war was confirmed on September 16 when Marshal Chang Tso-lin definitely declared war on the Peking government and threw troops over the Chihli-Manchurian border against the town of Chaoyang. Manchurian soldiers have been mobilizing for the past two weeks and are concentrated along the border from Shanhaikwan to north of Chinchow. . .

10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Japanese Defense Sector Enlarged

September 23, 1939

A modification of the boundaries of two International Settlement defense sectors north of Soochow Creek was agreed upon between representatives of the British and Japanese military and became effective September 21 when British defense forces vacated the area between North Kiangsi and North Honan Roads. . .

Prior to the 1937 hostilities, the area was defended by the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. During the hostilities, the SVC was withdrawn and the area taken over by the British defense forces. The Embankment Building, Sassoon property and the second apartment house north of Soochow Creek after Broadway Mansions, now falls entirely within the Japanese defense sector as a result of the new change. . .

An Open Letter To Passengers On The "General Gordon" ★ ★

IF everything comes off according to schedule, you will be leaving Shanghai in another day or two. Because of the circumstances surrounding the sailing of your ship, the SS General Gordon, we are taking this opportunity of writing you a letter.

Your trip assumes particular importance because it is the first sailing from Shanghai of a large passenger ship since the institution of the blockade of the port by the Nationalist Navy. The eyes of people in many countries throughout the world are upon you. Once your ship reaches the United States—perhaps even when it touches at Japan en route—you will be bombarded with questions by newspapermen and American Government investigators, as well as by friends and relatives.

As the first large group of foreigners of different nationalities to leave China since the liberation, your words will have great effect, both upon world public opinion and upon your respective governments. For this reason alone it is important that you give a clear and accurate picture of life in Liberated China.

* * *

IT is doubly important that you, as eyewitnesses in China for the past few months, give an objective account of recent developments since there appear to be many misconceptions abroad about life in China these days.

One of the more unfortunate developments has been the rather sensational picturing of your vessel as a mercy ship and of yourselves as refugees from the Red terror. This point of view, apparently widely held abroad, may be of particular importance to those Americans among you since the ship has all along been tagged as American-planned, as a rescue ship for Americans and whatever other foreigners for whom there may be room.

It is interesting to note in this connection that there are only about 350 Americans among you out of some 1,500 to 2,000 Americans living in the area for which Shanghai serves as port. It would appear that some of those who observe the China scene from vantage points in the United States must have their wires crossed if they believe that Americans in China are rushing aboard the Gordon in a frantic effort to leave this country.

In recent weeks there have been indications that the amount of false information about China being circulated abroad is steadily increasing.

We foreigners remaining here are not alarmed personally when the radio from America says in one and the same breath that the food shortage in this city is becoming critical and that huge quantities of foodstuffs are being shipped to Russia from the Northeastern provinces. Remembering the days of the old CNC and GY currencies, we can hardly become alarmed when the Voice of America tells us that inflation is getting out of hand and implies that soon, for the first time, we shall see bills of larger denomination than 200 dollars.

Of course such tales irritate us personally in that they cause alarm and worry to friends and relatives at home who tend to become excited and send frantic cables of inquiry because of the latest scare rumor seen in the press or heard on the radio.

Far more serious is the effect of such irresponsible reports upon public opinion abroad. The laying to rest of these and similar wild tales is certainly a worthwhile job which you can perform with dispatch since you have been residents here for the past several months.

* * *

AS foreigners with a special interest in China, it is particularly important that you give people abroad a well-balanced, objective picture of developments here. If you are a businessman, you will be interested in seeing your government do what it can toward restoration of normal shipping and other commercial relations with the new China. So long as foreign governments accord recognition to the nearly-defunct Nationalist regime, which is still attempting to enforce the blockade, it will be difficult to resume peace-time trade relations.

If you are a missionary or educational worker the continuance of your chosen line of work in this country depends upon ultimate recognition of the People's Government by your government and the establishment of normal treaty relations between the two countries. Your presentation of a balanced picture of recent developments in this country will serve to counteract the current misinformation and thus bring about a state of informed public opinion conducive to early recognition.

As friends of China, your eyewitness views of the problems, the developments, and the change since the Liberation will go a long way toward helping the people of your respective countries keep their feelings of traditional friendship for the people of China.

* * *

WE urge you to tell the people abroad what life is like in China since the arrival of the People's Liberation Army. Since we ourselves are engaged in the job of putting objective information before the public, our strong feeling upon this matter may be understandable. We do not ask you to do anything but tell exactly what you have seen. You have an unequalled opportunity to tell the people the facts since you are well qualified and since everyone is anxious to listen to you.

The Editor

People's Theatre In Japan

Hugh Deane

BY their applause, so tremendous that it visibly moved the veteran actors themselves, the thousands who crowded Kyoritsu Hall to see the May Day Eve cultural festival gave success to an experiment: a first attempt to revitalize a classical Kabuki drama by giving it a meaning for the people of today. In the *Narukami* revised and staged by Zenshin-za, (Advance Theatre), the heroine is not a beauty of the court but a peasant girl, who for the sake of the villagers pits her charm and wit against the magical powers of a malignant priest. Drastic changes in the lines and action were unnecessary, however, since, like all the Kabuki plays, it was originally a popular drama. Kabuki developed in the 17th and 18th centuries as a reaction against the aristocratic Noh plays, but gradually its sharp characterizations of the various classes were blunted and it too became a medium for the glorification of feudalism.

So few workers have been able to afford to see Kabuki in recent years, and so seemingly overpowering has been the competition of the movies, that Zenshin-za feared that the form might have lost its hold on the people. The reception of *Narukami* showed that the ancient music of Kabuki, its falsetto recitations and stylized acting, its colorful costumes and vigorous clowning, are still loved. Skillful adaptation may do for Kabuki what has been done for the traditional opera in the Liberated Areas of China.

The somewhat chilly reviews of *Narukami* by certain professional critics were expected, for Zenshin-za, long acclaimed for its plays and films, lost its artistry in their eyes when, early in March, 78 of its 82 adult members joined the Communist Party in a group. Since that event Zenshin-za has been the butt of many jibes from the right, but it has also found that it has a sure audience wherever there are trade unions or popular organizations.

Zenshin-za's History

The mass joining of the party seemed abrupt to many outsiders, but actually it was preceded by many months of discussion and by almost two decades of experience. Led by Nakamura Ganemon and Kawarasaki Chojuro (who plays the priest in *Narukami*), a group of rebels from the monopoly-controlled, tradition-ridden Kabuki troupes organized Zenshin-za in 1931. The rebels could obtain no capital from banks or patrons, but their pooled funds lasted till they gained their first successes. By 1937 the troupe was prosperous enough to buy land on the outskirts of Tokyo and begin to build the community where it still works and lives: a well-appointed rehearsal theatre flanked by homes and gardens.

During its prewar decade Zenshin-za occasionally produced a foreign play, such as Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!* or Elmer Rice's *Street Scene*, but for the most part it clung to Kabuki and Matatabi-mono, a type of play about the traveling gamblers of the Tokugawa period. Perhaps its finest work, however, was done in its 16 films, all of which were historical dramas set in feudal times. In these films Zenshin-za sought to expose the irrationality and cruelty of the Samurai code and to show how people actually lived under feudalism.

Kawarasaki Chojuro was a pupil of the great liberal actor, Ichikawa Sadanji, a leader of the New Drama Movement of 30 years ago, and accompanied him and 38 others to Moscow in 1928. The group was welcomed warmly and impressed by the vigor of Soviet drama, and Kawarasaki says that the visit began his conversion to Marxism. During its first years Zenshin-za produced a few leftwing plays, part of the proceeds from which went to the illegal Communist Party, and such proletarian dramatists as Murayama Tomoyoshi helped the troupe to get started.

Theatre in Wartime

As the militarist-capitalist reaction intensified, however, Zenshin-za grew aloof from the struggling leftwing and liberal dramatic groups. The Proletarian Drama League was suppressed in 1934 and the last vaguely liberal troupes went under in 1940, but Zenshin-za survived even the war. During the middle and late thirties it ignored the issues of the day and restricted itself to saying what it could about feudalism in its films. When the Pacific War began, it took refuge in *Genroku Chushingura*, a long sequence of Kabuki plays about the 47 ronin. It staged and filmed these for two years, and then yielded to the Information Bureau and staged *Sinking the Unsinkable*, about the sinking of the battleship Prince of Wales. It made excuses to avoid filming this play, but later made a movie of a somewhat less offensive story about Japanese emigrant farmers in Manchuria. During these years the troupe sought an escape in the fervent collection of fine handicrafts and costumes and in the study of Japanese architecture, gardening, and arts. As the war went on, however, the troupe became increasingly critical of its opportunism, and in the summer of 1944, when the bombings began, it left Tokyo for the countryside of Nagano Prefecture and ceased major activity.

During the first postwar year Zenshin-za was attached to the Imperial Theatre in Tokyo and, excited by the liberal atmosphere which then existed, performed in quick succession the best foreign plays it could lay its hands on: Jean Richard Bloch's *Toulon*, Drinkwater's *Abraham Lincoln* and *Watch on the Rhine*. These productions brought the troupe an award from the newspaper *Asahi* for having contributed the most to the democratization of the Japanese stage, but both for financial and artistic reasons it was discontent. It obtained a bare livelihood from the bureaucratic management of the Imperial Theatre, and it recalled the greater satisfaction it had gained from performing Kabuki to town and village audiences during its stay in Nagano. It quit the Imperial Theatre, therefore, and, dividing itself into several groups, began to travel, performing in local theatres, factories and schools. This intimate contact with the people eventually led almost all into the Communist Party.

Zenshin-za is organized according to the principle of democratic centralism; its executive committee, elected periodically at meetings of the membership, has enough authority to manage efficiently. Members have their own homes in the community, but in many ways live like one family. They take many of their meals together, and the 40 children, who have a troupe of their own and whom many visitors describe as the happiest children in Japan, are cared for communally. In contrast to the traditional Kabuki troupes, in which the leading actors treat the others like servants, freedom of criticism is encouraged by every possible means. After rehearsing the troupe holds a discussion, and a bit player may, and does, criticize those in the leading roles.

Zenshin-za is now divided into four groups. The group which produced *Narukami* is performing *Midsummer Night's Dream* this summer in the Tokyo area, while the second is in Osaka, engaged in a Japanese dramatization of *Les Miserables*. Another is taking *Ali Baba* on tour, and the fourth, known as the New Culture Group, is working on adaptations of Kabuki. The children's group, which danced before half a million people on May Day, is also professionally busy.

The Economic Problem

Like every cultural enterprise in Japan today, Zenshin-za faces the general problem of operating in a semi-colonial society. In the increasingly depressed economy fewer and fewer people can afford to see plays, admission to which is made extraordinarily expensive by the 150 percent state tax on entertainment. An influx of Hollywood films, and of such American magazines as *True Story* and *True Romance*, has taken place, and American censorship of progressive thought and art, direct and indirect, has grown more restrictive than ever.

Zenshin-za has met the economic problem by relying on the support of popular organizations, principally the trade unions, and the schools. Partly to avoid censorship, it has leaned heavily on Shakespeare. Even if censorship did not exist, Shakespeare would have a place in the troupe's repertoire, for its greatness has surmounted translation and everywhere it has been received enthusiastically. Zenshin-za plans to produce *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello and King Lear*, as well as more adaptations of Kabuki and certain Japanese plays.

Shanghai Theater:

ROAR CHINA

"ROAR China," recently at the Canidrome, was written in 1924 by the Soviet author Tretiakov. It was one of the earliest Soviet dramatic productions reflecting China's revolutionary, anti-imperialist development. In 1924, Tretiakov was teaching at the National University in Peking; on June 22 of that year, the Wan Hsien incident occurred, upon which "Roar China" is based. At first ignored in Moscow, it was finally produced there early in 1926, later in Europe, and created a sensation in New York in 1930.

The scene is laid in Wan Hsien, a town 1,000 miles up the Yangtze, then patrolled by foreign gunboats which protected foreign traders and missionaries. In the town were American oil depots and the offices of foreign export firms, of which the Robert Dollar Company was the largest, represented by a Mr. Ashlay. In the Yangtze lay the gunboat "Cockchafer." When, as the result of an argument between Ashlay and a boatman, he was drowned, the gunboat's captain immediately took severe measures to exact retribution from the town. If the guilty boatman could not be found, the town authorities must execute two members of the boatmen's union; honor must be shown Ashlay's body at the funeral; and his family must be compensated. The captain ordered full satisfaction of these demands within two days, or he would bombard the town. Tretiakov says, "These are the facts; I have hardly had to change anything. Moreover, the case proved to be a typical one."

The play was given an excellent production at the Canidrome, with a large open-air set which permitted rapid changes of scene by simply changing the lighting. Sound was a difficult problem, which was improved toward the end of the run. The make-up job, acting, pace and powerful climax made "Roar China" a very good play.

While some foreign comment on "Roar China," as might be expected, was sharply critical on the ground that it is an "anti-foreign" play, others saw it as the author evidently intended, a representation of the callousness and cruelty of imperialism and of those who are its instruments. In this connection, Chinese comment, as reported in the *Giefang Rhbao* (September 19) is interesting. One cultural worker said, " 'Roar China' shows imperialism in its true colors. Imperialism's special characteristics do not lie in such things as red hair, blue eyes, big noses and white faces, but in its history of savage invasion of weak nations; in its use of any cruel policy for its own private profit; despite its false front of compassion, it has never given the people any real benefit. Finally, while imperialism has outwardly shown great strength, it is actually only a paper tiger, and the people of the world need only to recognize clearly imperialism's true countenance to defeat it."

—*William Berges*

SZECHUEN'S PROSPECTS:

The Past Is Dark, But The Future Hopeful

FRED T. DOUGLAS

WHEN I left Szechuen in the late summer of 1947 the economic situation was steadily deteriorating over the length and breadth of the province. Peasant unrest expressed itself in sporadic rice riots and increasing guerilla activity. Teachers and students were growing more insistent in their demands for peace and improved living standards The CNC currency had started slipping and a black market in US dollars was accelerating the decline. Everywhere the bankruptcy of feudal Kuomintang rule was apparent.

Throughout the Szechuen countryside, in village after village, the presence of increasing numbers of ragged farmers bore mute testimony to the ruthless exploitation of the people by the Kuomintang-landlord oligarchy. In the village of Lai Feng I, Pi Shan Hsien, where we stopped for luncheon one day, I questioned the Prefecture Commissioner about the pitiful horde of half-naked beggars that besieged the restaurant for left-overs from the table. The Commissioner, who had charge of 11 hsien, asserted that of the 5,000,000 people under his jurisdiction approximately 80 percent lived in dire poverty.

At Neichiang I talked with tax collectors sent from Nanking to collect a special tax-in-kind for the Kuomintang war chest. Over the teacups they confided that their task was proving most difficult and they were meeting with resistance. They were repeatedly told that taxes and rent payments in grain already were more than most villages could bear and any additional levies could be made only at the expense of local requirements for administration and improvements. They insisted that "the improvements could wait."

Forcible conscription likewise added to the hardships of the people by depleting the farms of much-needed manpower, manpower already reduced by wholesale conscription during the Anti-Japanese War. The claim that Szechuen, because of its large population, possesses an unlimited reservoir of expendable manpower is a myth that has been widely believed. Actually, among the poorer farmers the loss of one vitally-needed male worker often results in the remaining family members being driven off the farm and into the cities where they become beggars or worse.

In various parts of the province, college and middle school students were demanding an end to Chiang's American-supported war against the Chinese people and immediate relief for teachers and students living on a near-starvation level. Chest X-ray examinations of teachers and students in and near Chungking revealed that about 60 percent were suffering from tuberculosis in varying stages, chiefly from malnutrition. The Kuomintang answered the student demands with arrests, kidnappings, beatings and police terror. I personally witnessed the Kuomintang terror in action in Szechuen while teaching at the College of Rural Reconstruction in Hsieh-Ma-Ch'ang, Pa Hsien. This college, supported by individual American donations, was the headquarters of "Jimmy"' Y. C. Yen, (Yen Yang-chu), head of the so-called Mass Education Movement, an ineffectual, reformist organization engaged chiefly in teaching handicraft and conducting literacy work on a small scale in Pi Shan Hsien.

In a pre-dawn raid on the College on the morning of June 1, 1947, some 200 soldiers and special servicemen of the Chungking Garrison armed with sub-machineguns, pistols and rifles with fixed bayonets smashed in doors and invaded dormitories, seized and bound 23 students and eight professors and dragged them off to jail. Some of the boy students, including one of my brightest English students, were "detained for re-education" by the Kuomintang authorities and have, I am told, subsequently dropped from sight.

Reports from Szechuen since this writer left indicate that the lot of the people has progressively worsened. Experts on rural economics report that concentration of land ownership in Szechuen has reached a point where approximately 10 percent of the population owns 80 percent of the land. Considerable property has been acquired by absentee owners, wealthy merchants, speculators and Kuomintang military men who turned to purchasing land as a means of protecting their idle capital against inflation and rapid currency depreciation. Thus, it is stated, a great many middle-peasants, cultivators who held title to their land, have been squeezed out and reduced to the status of poor peasants.

At the rate events are moving in China an early end to the feudal Kuomintang militarist-landlord despotism in Szechuen province may be expected soon. With the reopening of the vital inland waterways of Southwest China, the interflow of raw materials and commodities between the rural areas of the interior and the down-river urban industrial centers will be made possible and will greatly facilitate the restoration of the national economy.

Szechuen tung oil, hog bristles, coal, silk and cotton goods and other native products will again be available to the markets. With improved farming methods and rural reconstruction projects, developed through the people's own democratic organizations, the standard of living of the Szechuen people should steadily improve, thus enabling them to purchase the products of the urban industrial areas.

Warfare In Malaya

S. T. Patras

IF in many of its far-flung dominions Britain has channelled the rising tide of colonial independence into harmless compromise, in Malaya the British Raj is fighting to the death. In the steaming jungles of the peninsula and the slums of Singapore, the line between political conflict and terrorism has long since been obliterated. Millions of pounds sterling and the toughest of the fighting services have been poured into Malaya to hold this "dollar arsenal" and pivot of all far-eastern empire strategy. Against the Malayan insurgents, bartered American arms, Gurka regiments and Dyak headhunters from Borneo have been employed to stiffen up the detachments of the Royal Air Force and the Grenadier Guards. Still, Major Philip Gribble, *News Chronicle* correspondent, reported in May of this year: "Malaya, one of our foremost dollar-earning areas, is in danger of being lost. The nerves of its 9,000 Europeans—the planters, the tin-miners and their wives and families—are badly strained."

The cause of this is a mixed force of Malays, Chinese and Indians who have decided that the independence of their homeland can by secured only by force.

Crossroads Of East

These groups have an interesting history. Many authorities now accept the theory that the Malays originated somewhere in the region of Yunnan, drifting down to the peninsula and crossing to the islands of Indonesia about 4,000 years ago. Malaya has been a crossroads of the East for thousands of years. The whole population, with the exception of the aboriginal Jamuk, Semangs and Sakais, is of more or less immigrant origin. Many Chinese were early settlers. In recent history, the Malays in the population increased from about 300,000 in 1875 to over 2,000,000 in the space of 75 years, immigrants coming in from Sumatra and other islands of Indonesia. Since 1813, when Britain took over, Chinese have entered in large numbers. Today the census counts about 2,609,000 Chinese, 2,215,000 Malays and 500,000 Indians.

To hold Malaya, the British have pinned their hopes upon the cultivation of racial rivalry. But in the war of independence now being fought, Malays, Chinese and Indians are on the side of the British—and Malays, Chinese and Indians are on the side of the insurgents. The divisions in the battle for Malaya are not along racial lines.

There have been movements for Malayan independence for over thirty years, but the main struggle began during the Second World War. When the British were thrown out in 1942, instead of submitting to the Japanese, the best among the various races united to form the famous Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army. This Army dealt the Japanese some heavy blows and liberated large sections of the country. The Malayan Communist Party played an important part in the leadership of the MPAJA proclaiming an immediate anti-Japanese program and also a program for an independent Malayan Republic. The main points of this postwar plan were: Independence, and democratic government based on universal suffrage with a Pan-Malayan Congress representative of all races.

But after VJ Day, the British moved in so swiftly with their military administration that the plans for a Republic were forestalled. The MPAJA was disbanded, the soldiers paid off with a pittance and a little more if they surrendered their weapons. Many did not. On October 11, 1945, a month after the British re-entry, Sir Harold MacMichael, Special Representative of His Majesty's Government, landed with treaty terms for the sultans of Malaya's nine states to sign. The first term of the treaties signed by the sultans and Sir Harold in 1945 read: "1) His Highness the Sultan agrees that His Majesty shall have full power and jurisdiction within the State and territory of—(*as the case may be*)". Even more specifically than before, the British had absolute sovereignty. This scheme has been somewhat modified since 1945, but in essence it has remained the same.

Having disbanded the MPAJA and brought the sultans effectively into line, the British set about restoring rubber and tin production. By the last quarter of 1946, rubber production was almost up to its prewar level. In September 1946, 42,000 tons of rubber were produced in comparison with the monthly average of 47,925 tons in 1941.

It was just like the old days—except that the people did not have enough to eat. What the authorities omitted to do was to see that the rubber-planters and the tin-mine owners paid fair wages to their workers. The average daily wage of a worker in 1946 was 50 cents U.S. And the cost of living was rising.

Series Of Strikes

The workers replied with a series of strikes. A Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions was formed with headquarters at Kuala Lumpur. Singapore had been constitutionally separated from Malaya at the end of the war, so for that city a separate Singapore Federation of Trade Unions was formed.

The British found they could not disband the organized workers as they had disbanded the MPAJA. Instead they tried to gain control of the trade union movement. The British Labor government sent out S. S. Awbery, MP and F. W. Dalley, both old hands in British trade union officialdom, to see whether the Malayan workers could be "organized" in "British" fashion.

But in spite of these efforts, the Malayan workers of all races preferred their own native leadership. Strikes for better wages and conditions continued.

At the beginning of 1948, the authorities began to take measures to break up the trade unions. First to act was the Singapore Harbor Board which abolished the old system of contract labor and introduced a system of direct employment. In April, when protest leaflets were circulated, banishment warrants were issued against members of the Chinese section of the Singapore Harbor Union. The Union premises were raided and arrests followed. The government hoped to split the workers by racial discrimination and, incidentally, to dispose of some Chinese militants by sending them to Kuomintang China.

Following upon this, the Workers' Protection Corps was broken up. The members who were not arrested went underground or fled up country. In May, 140 workers were arrested at the Tai Tong factory and 30 imprisoned. Then, in June, the Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions was declared illegal, even though this body was affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions (to which British Unions then belonged) and in spite of international protests. Over 600 unionists and others were arrested.

Renewed Resistance

For the workers, who had become the strongest advocates of Malayan independence as the only possible road to better wages and conditions, it was a question of submitting or resisting. In June resistance began. The MPAJA was reformed as the Malayan Peoples' Anti-British Army. Arms, hidden in jungle dumps when the British demanded surrender at the end of the war, were unearthed and distributed. Police and military posts on the peninsula came under fire. Everywhere it was a question of taking sides. Sir Eric Newbolt, the Acting High Commissioner, addressing the Chinese in August 1948, said: "In the Federation of Malaya there can only be two camps, those who actively support the government and the rest." Chinese farmers and shopkeepers in the countryside learned this only too well when they and the local populace alike were bombed and machinegunned and their homes burned as the military punitive expeditions swept the country. The Indian community had the lesson brought home when, in May this year, the British caught Mr. A. Ganapathy, President of the Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions and an Indian, and hanged him at Budu Jail. Even the Malay soldiers in the British forces were taught the lesson when they clashed with police at the time of the Malay New Year festivities this year.

People in Malaya—Malay, Chinese Indian—are taking one side or the other in the fight for an independent, democratic Malayan Republic. For the British as a whole the die is cast.

When Father Brought Back A Pair of New Leather Shoes

PA CHIN (巴金)—translated by C. M. Chang

Pa Chin is a famous contemporary Chinese writer. The story "When Father Brought Home a Pair of New Leather Shoes" first appeared in the Literature Magazine (文學), December 1933, when the reactionary forces were at the height of their power and the revolutionaries had to work underground, very many of them losing their lives.

MONTHS and years have followed one another like the rise and fall of a swing, so fast have the years passed since I was a boy. The memory of a child is dim and vague and I have forgotten many, many things: only a face still remains, freshly impressed on my mind through all these years—it is the face of my father.

Father loved me and was never angry with me. Whenever he called me to come to him, he would smile, tell me interesting stories or caress my head with his soft hands. If I did something wrong or lost my temper with my mother, he would not blame me; he only bade me come to him and explained to me softly until I felt better, and then let me go to play. Father was busy and seldom at home in the day time. Early in the morning he went out hastily and came back towards evening. At night, besides reading and writing, he chatted with mother and me and told us stories. The days in our house were filled with happiness at that time; I often laughed and I often saw father and mother laugh.

* * *

GRADUALLY father changed; little by little he became sad and gloomy. At first he occasionallly did not come back to dine, or went out after dinner, leaving mother and me in loneliness and monotony at home; mother sewing and I repeatedly turning the leaves of a worn-out book of pictures. It was winter with the wind blowing violently outside, and sometimes it rained. When father came back his nose would be red with cold, his hands like ice, and his head and clothes sometimes soaked with rain. Mother would put down her sewing to attend to him. He did not speak much, sat down quietly and when, as usual, I went up to him and called lovingly, "Papa", he would answer feebly, caress my head with his cold hand and give me a smile which was very different from former days. Then he would say, "Lin-Erh, go to bed," and tell mother to send me to bed.

Days passed like this. Father still went out every evening, while mother sat alone waiting for him. I asked her where father went and what he was doing these evenings; she only replied that she did not know. I thought she must know, but would not tell me.

One night father came home comparatively earlier, while I was still up. His face was very pale and he looked ill, his eyes feverish and bloodshot. I was bent over the table studying the Chinese reader and felt surprised at his sudden appearance; I even thought at first it must be someone else. Half timid and half cheerful, I called, "Papa", and climbed down from the bench to go to him. Father did not answer, his face still as gloomy as if he could not see me. He signalled to mother, saying: "Lin-Erh. . . send him to bed immediately."

Mother did not contradict him and I silently followed her into the back room.

"Sleep like a good boy," mother said to me in a low voice after pulling up the quilt. Suddenly some tears fell from her eyes. Mother was crying! And what was the matter that a grown-up cried? I could not understand and was about to ask her, when she wiped her eyes and went out.

"Has Lin Erh gone to sleep?" I heard father ask mother.

"He is asleep. Lin-Erh has been obedient lately," was mother's reply.

Later I heard some knocking at the door. Father immediately said to mother: "You go inside," and he himself went to the door. Mother came into the back room, but she hid herself by the door and peeped out. Curiosity overcame me and laying my face close against the partition I looked out through the cracks to watch father.

Father opened the door and ushered in two men; one of them a thin fellow in a worn-out, foreign suit, and the other, a native of North China, purple-faced, tall, looking like a laborer. The northerner carried a huge rattan case. Father closed the door and turned to the two newcomers: "You didn't meet anybody?"

"We don't think so; we were careful the whole way," replied the man in foreign dress.

"Here are all the important things," the northerner said solemnly as he placed the rattan case under the table and sat himself on a chair by the wall.

"I think this place is probably all right, for no one will take notice of it," remarked the man in foreign dress. "You have to be careful, nevertheless." He sat down too.

"I understand. How about your place? I am afraid that it will come into question this evening," said father gravely.

Then the three of them leaned on the table, with their heads together, and talked for quite some time in whispers. At last father went to open the door and let out the two guests.

Mother had been concealing herself and peering at them by the door, and as soon as they had gone, she walked out.

"What is the matter?" mother asked father timidly. "Who are they?"

"Two friends and office mates. We were talking business," father answered in a cold manner. At the same time, he dragged the rattan case from under the table and carried it toward the back room. I hastened to turn over and bury my head into the quilt, for fear he would discover that I had been watching. By that time my curiosity had vanished. It was quite a common matter, the talking of business, and even a child knew something about it.

Father was talking with mother.

"You should not look into it; it belongs to others!" Father argued in the outer room.

"I know. I know what you people are doing. If you do not care about yourself, you should think of Lin-Erh....." Mother almost burst into tears.

"Speak quietly, speak quietly," father repeated nervously.

"Do not deceive me. I understand everything. I understood long ago. You think I couldn't see it myself? .....I understand. One of my relatives died for this. His behavior was the same as yours now," mother said, wiping her eyes.

"Say no more, since you have understood. There is no use in going on and it would be worse should people overhear." Father spoke softly as if yielding and sat down on the bench in front of the table. I could not see his face clearly; his head was bowed and he seemed to be thinking. Mother still sat and sobbed brokenly.

* * *

"MY dear Ho," my father lifted his head a while later and spoke to mother, "I hope you understand me, understand that I couldn't help it. Both enthusiasm and reason have driven me toward that road. You must keep in mind that I am not the first, nor am I the last. But justice will come anyway....." Father stood up to dry mother's tears.

"But, Lin-Erh, you do not even think of his future" Mother twisted her head to shake off father's hand. "It would not do to keep this rattan case here; all of us would be destroyed for it!"

"Not only Lin-Erh, but you also. But I cannot be so considerate. Where should the rattan case be kept, if not here? For the cause of justice I must sacrifice even the most precious. This is a time when nothing can be helped. This is like a kind of hereditary disease; my father died for it..... Since you understand all this, you should understand me.

Don't you see that I have suffered enough?" At that time I could not understand my father's meaning, but he spoke with a trembling voice which involved much loving emotion and made me want to cry. Then I heard father come in with the rattan case and mother following at his heels. Together they put the case under the bed. Mother did not quarrel with father again.

"Lin-Erh sleeps well," mother said, sighing. "This boy is lovely indeed and next month will be his birthday. I plan to buy a pair of new leather shoes for him."

Father went out the next evening as usual and mother sent me to bed very early. She asked me to obey her and promised me one thing: on my eighth birthday she would give me a pair of new leather shoes.

* * *

ONE evening, a few days later, when we had just finished dinner but hadn't yet left the table, someone came to look for father. I recognized this guest, whose tall stature and purple face I had seen very clearly through the cracks in the partition. He stood at the doorway and whispered something in father's ear and father at once paled. Then, continuing to talk in low voices, both entered the back room and carried out the rattan case. The northerner carried the case away and father accompanied him.

When mother saw them go, she uttered a sigh of relief. Later on, father came back, looking rather confused. As soon as he entered he directed mother: "Take Lin-Erh to bed." His voice was grave. Not only did I feel afraid but mother's face also turned white.

That night, from under the quilt, I heard the sounds of father and mother moving furniture and utensils. I could not understand why they should be so busy at night.

The next morning, they declared that we were moving. They were grown-ups and naturally knew more than I, but why should we move our home all of a sudden, since we were quite well off here and nothing had happened? I could not understand at all.

Early in the morning, father went out with the luggage. Then I left with mother in a rickshaw. We went quite far and passed along many, many long streets. Finally the rickshaw stopped at a narrow lane. In front of us was a shabby building and mother went forward to knock at the lacquered, double gate. The gate opened and a woman came out who talked a little with mother and then led us in. Mother told me it was the house of father's office mate. Here they let us occupy one, not very spacious, room, and our possessions were piled in it.

Life at home was monotonous. There were no other children in the house and outside was a secluded, narrow lane with very few passers-by. Mother had grown thinner and more gloomy than before. I often saw her frown and sigh, and on one or two occasions I found her weeping.

Father did not return for several nights running and this worried mother very much. Then father came back one night. Outside, the rain poured and father was wet through like a drowned chicken and looked so bad that I could hardly recognize him.

"You?.....look like this?" exclaimed mother, astonished. "It is raining so terribly and yet you come home?"

"A dog always follows at my heels; it is this heavy rain that saves me!" father gasped while he unbuttoned his clothes and mother handed him a towel to wipe the rain off his head. Mother also took out clean clothes for him to put on.

"You should take care of your health. You have been very weak and can never stand such....." Mother helped father to put on the clothes and spoke persuasively in the meantime. "I have worried about you these few days."

"Life lately has been pretty bad; the dogs were barking violently and so I almost dared not return home for fear that I should involve you in the trouble. Have you received a message from Lao Chang? I could not stand it any longer today and so I took advantage of this heavy rain and came to have a look at you. I feel happy when I am with you." Father's voice became softer, much the same as formerly. I was curious and thought it unimaginable that a grown up man like father should fear dogs!

Mother did not speak at first; she looked at father and shed silent tears. Then she burst out crying: "Please change your ways from now on. You see how much distress you have brought to us! I am your wife and Lin-Erh is your son. Why should you bring us distress?" Mother's crying made me also cry into the quilt.

"I have only one heart and one life. While I am concerned for the masses, I cannot take care of you at the same time. Neither of us has done anything wrong and neither should blame the other." Father's voice sounded quite bitter and I thought he might be crying too.

"Why did you marry me then.....?" This was said by mother word by word, as if each would stick in her throat and prevent her from going on.

Father gave a sigh and kept silent for a long time. He began at last; "That is my mistake. People like us should indeed never marry. We should never have a wife and sons. We should bear the distress alone, die alone, and carry all the burden on our own shoulders. I have committed an irreversible mistake.....I am sorry for you indeed. But I have had quite enough distress! Why should you torment me with such words? I do not know how many times we can meet again! I am afraid....." I thought father was also crying.

Father did not go that night, and stayed at home for several days in succession. Although he went out in the evening, he came back very early, and I felt that I had found my kind, warm father again. Then my birthday came. When father went out in the morning, mother told him once again that he must surely get the pair of new leather shoes and he replied that he would never forget them, and also said that when he came back in the afternoon he would take me to a theatre.

After the midday meal we stayed at home and waited for father. I was playing in the courtyard and whenever I heard footsteps, I ran out to look. But the whole afternoon passed without father's appearance. Even mother was a bit worried.

I became weary of waiting for father, yet he still did not appear. Mother did not know what to do and so sent me to bed. She consoled me by saying that when I got up the next morning I would have the new shoes to wear.

Just as I was falling asleep I was roused by a series of hasty knocks at the door. The northerner entered and spoke a few words with mother in a whisper and mother hastily followed him out.

My heart throbbed violently and I wondered what had happened outside. I felt that the coming of this northerner could never bring any good news. This was the third time he had come.

Early the next morning I asked mother where she had gone the night before. Mother denied absolutely that she had been out and remarked that I must have been dreaming. But mother's eyes were red and swollen. When I asked her again whether father had brought back the pair of new leather shoes for me, she began to weep.

Father never brought back the new shoes that I wanted; what was worse, I never saw his face again. Mother did not mention father again either. When I asked her where father was, she would say that father had gone to some other province for business and when I asked when he would come back, she replied, "Next year." A year later I asked her again and she answered with another, "Next year." Thus many next years passed, but father never came back.

It depended upon mother to bring me up and for my sake she underwent innumerable hardships. My mother stayed with us for the half year just after my marriage, and then she left me and was gone forever. Among her posthumous effects I discovered by accident an old newspaper which carried news about father and his photo, and from which I learned of his end.

* * *

THE above is for you to read, Ziang, my son. Today is your eighth birthday and as it happened I did not bring back the pair of new leather shoes that your mother promised you.

Ziang, my son, you must have been disappointed today when you did not get the pair of new leather shoes. When I returned with empty hands,

your eyes shone with bright tears of disappointment. When I saw the way you got into trouble with your mother because of your tears, I almost wanted to burst into tears too. A scene that had occurred 20 years ago suddenly presented itself before my eyes.

Ziang, my son, 20 years ago there was also a boy of eight in this house, who spent a lonely birthday. That boy was I, your father. On that day, 20 years ago, I also had been waiting for my father to bring back a pair of new leather shoes, and my waiting also ended in tears. Not only did the pair of new leather shoes not come, but my father also was lost on that day.

• • •

WHEN I was writing the above article, that is, when I searched for the shadow of my father's face in my memory, I always felt that I was describing myself with your pen; I was not only describing my father, but also seemed to depict my own profile in your eyes. I know you will curse me as I cursed my father, for I will give you loneliness and distress such as my father gave me.

You see, I, like my father, have committed an irreversible mistake. I ought to bear the distress, to die, to carry all the burden alone and swallow in a single mouthful the bitter fruit that I myself planted. I should not leave a son. My father said, "For the sake of justice, I must sacrifice even my most precious; I am not the first, nor am I the last." Now it is my turn to repeat his words. This "for the sake of justice" seems like a kind of hereditary disease, inherited by my father from my grandfather, and by myself from my father; my grandfather died of that disease, and so did my father. I am not the first, nor am I the last.

I don't know when you will begin to be able to understand me as I understand my father at this moment; but I am afraid that I have not enough time to wait for that day. My father was lost on my eighth birthday and today is your eighth birthday. At any moment I, like my father, may suddenly disappear. So I cannot delay writing these words until you are able to read my article; I place it with my documents and hope that you may find it among my possessions when I leave this human world.

Now, I am about through. Everything is quiet. Both your mother and you are soundly and peacefully sleeping. Your mother, a poor, good woman, is too tired and when tomorrow breaks she will have to be busy doing things again. She treats me like my mother treated my father and I torture her as my father tortured my mother. History seems to move in cycles; things that happened, happen again; everything is like that. But we should break the chain, my son, we should change history.

Go ahead, my son, go forward to change history when you grow up. Change it with your great-grandfather's blood, your grandfather's blood, your father's blood and your own blood!

The Week's Business

DURING the week from September 15 to 21, the local market maintained a comparatively steady trend. While quotations of industrial products, such as cotton yarn and cloth remained stable, those of agricultural products drifted to slightly lower levels. Only the prices of export supplies registered increases due to increased export trade through Tientsin and repeated adjustments in the foreign exchange rates.

Two interesting developments were noted in the commodity markets during the week under review. First, the differences in the price levels of industrial and agricultural products have been further reduced, and second, amidst general mild declines in the prices of essential commodities, quotations of export goods alone registered increases. Both phenomena reflected improving trade conditions.

Under continued abundant rice arrivals in town from producing areas on the one hand and inactive demand on the other, rice quotations have naturally been weak, coming down from JMP43,000 on September 14 to JMP40,000 per picul on September 20.

In the cotton yarn market, sellings were heavy during the past week as textile mills tried to realize cash for the payment of mid-month wages and local banks liquidated goods in order to meet their recapitalization requirements. The Shanghai Cotton, Yarn and Cloth Company had to make collections from the market occasionally in order to maintain the quotations, although brisk demand from outports for cotton yarn and cloth helped prevent quotations from declining.

At the prewar standard, one bolt of 12 lb. Dragon Head cotton cloth was equivalent to one picul of rice. At the end of July this year, one picul of rice could bring two bolts of cloth. By September 17, however, the ratio between Dragon Head sheeting and rice has again become one to one, indicating the degree of normalcy being regained by the local market.

In the export supply market, the quotation of tung oil climbed from JMP67,000 per picul on September 10 to JMP82,000 per picul on September 20, representing an increase of more than 20 percent. Because of the blockade, quotations of export goods had been lagging far behind those of other commodities during the past months. In August, the price index of essential commodities, according to the *Giefang Rhbao*, was double that of export supplies. Recently, however, with the increase of export trade through Tientsin and adjustments in the foreign exchange rates, export goods have been regaining their normal level.

The money situation during the week under review tightened slightly as a result of the large sums called in by the People's Bank for the recapitalization of local commercial and native banks and trust companies. The curb interest rate on loans fluctuated arobnd JMP11 to 12 per mille per day.

In accordance with the Banking Control Regulations, a total of 173 local banks increased their capital by September 20, the deadline for the recapitalization, paying to the People's Bank of China JMP14,693,389,200 in cash and JMP5,320,660,800 in assets, a total of JMP20,014,050,000. Nineteen banks were forced to close down because of their inability to meet the recapitalization requirements.

In addition to these banks, six others, whose headquarters are in outports, and the 13 foreign banks in Shanghai have not yet increased their capital. Among the recapitalized banks, two native banks and one trust company changed into commercial banks.

An important step taken by the Bank of China during the week in promoting exports and encouraging overseas remittances was the adoption of two separate quotations for foreign exchange, one for drafts (T/T and D/D) and another for notes.

On Thursday, all rates for drafts were raised, while the rates for notes, with the exception of those for US dollars, pounds sterling and Canadian dollars, were lowered.

The lowering of the rates for notes, especially for Hongkong dollars is significant. The so-called "prosperity" of Hongkong is built on South China, and a large portion of the inflated Hongkong currency notes is circulated in South China. The liberation of the whole of China will naturally result in the reduction of circulation of the Hongkong dollar.

With the devaluation of the British pound sterling, all foreign exchange rates for the pound sterling group were lowered on September 20.

Following is a listing of representative commodity prices for the past week:

	Sept. 14 JMP	Sept. 21 JMP
US dollar (note)	2,800	3,400
20's yarn	683,000	695,000
12-lb. cloth	32,400	32,400
Rice	43,000	39,500
Peanut oil	60,000	60,000
Coal briquette	6,300	5,500

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Offensive on All Fronts; US Ships Arrive; Recognition Discussed

DURING the week, as the remnants of the once sprawling KMT forces continued to break up in flight, defection and internal squabbles, the People's Liberation Army developed its offensive on all fronts. Regular troops of the PLA are reported attacking mountain strongholds on the border of the southern province of Kwangtung. From the Hongkong *Kung Sheung Daily News* comes the report that about 1,000 troops of General Liu Po-cheng's 14th Army have crossed the Kwangtung border to a point near Wongyuan, 100 miles north of Canton.

Meanwhile, in Eastern Hunan, 10,000 troops of General Lin Piao's armies have begun a two-pronged drive towards the Canton-Hankow railway. These troops had been concentrated in the Kweitung area, approximately 100 miles southeast of Hengyang. One column is reported to be driving in the direction of Leiyang, 45 miles south of Hengyang.

All news indicates the coming annihilation of the KMT forces in Hunan and an imminent offensive on Canton. The KMT command is using pressgang methods in Canton and South China cities to fill out its depleted forces while tension mounts, the Central Bank engineers heavy gold sales and officials flee.

* * *

Yunnan, Kwangsi, Fukien

ON September 16, the Peiping Radio announced that more than 200 towns and 3,500,000 people had been liberated by guerilla forces in Kwangsi and Yunnan provinces, where a vast guerilla area had been established behind the enemy lines in the Kwangsi-Yunnan - Kweichow border region. Yunnan towns under guerilla control included Kunyang, 30 miles southwest of Kunming, capital of Yunnan.

Mopping up operations continue in the province of Fukien. On September 8, more than 200 men of the Fifth KMT Army, with all their equipment and arms, surrendered to the Liberation Army in the Ming Ching Hsien area near the Ming River in Fukien. The PLA also captured Meichow and Ping Tan Islands in the Bay of Fukien, wiping out the remnants of the KMT 73rd Army stationed there.

* * *

On the Way Out

IN China's northwest, General Sun Pai-chuan, Deputy Commander of the Kansu Peace Preservation Corps, is reported by the *Hwa Shiang Pao* to be seeking a regional peace settlement with PLA General Peng Teh-huai. Minhsien, 120 miles south of the Kansu provincial capital, Lanchow, is said to be in PLA hands following the peaceful surrender of the city.

PCC Opens

The long awaited Chinese People's Political Consultative Council opened its sessions in Peiping on September 21. Mao Tze-tung, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, delivered the inaugural address before more than 600 delegates. Speeches were also made by Madame Sun Yat-sen; Liu Shao-chi, member of the standing committee of the Chinese Communist Party; Chang Lan of the Democratic League; Kao Kang, representative of the people in the Liberated areas; Chen Yi, mayor of Shanghai; Huang Yen-pei, democratic leader; Li Li-san, deputy director of the All China Federation of Labor; Chang Chih-chung, former member of the Nationalist peace delegation; Sa Foo-ting, representative from Sinkiang; Chen Chien, former Nationalist Army general in Honan; and Sze-tu Mei Tang, representative of Overseas Chinese. The task of the PCC is to set up a central government for China.

In Canton, the Kuomintang Central Executive Committee decided to expel 28 dissident members of the party who are now carrying on anti-KMT activity. The cabinet announced that 55 KMT members would be arrested. Government and party blacklists include Generals Huang Shao-haiung and Fei Lung-yun.

The KMT Commissioner for Tibetan and Mongolian Affairs, Dr. Kwan Chi-yu, announced in Canton that the 12-year old Panchan Lama had been shifted to a point near Lake Kokonor and that this candidate for leadership of Tibet-Mongolian Buddhists wants to enter Tibet. Footnote to this announcement was the news that Kunbun Monastery, on the outskirts of Sining, where the Panchan was recently inaugurated as leading Buddhist by the KMT, has been occupied by PLA forces under General Peng Teh-huai.

From Canton likewise comes the news that the much-publicized Ma Pu-fang is cooling his heels in that city while waiting to leave by plane on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

On the Way In

HONKGONG reports say that 13,000 tons of shipping have left that port for Shanghai and North China ports since the KMT declaration of a blockade on the China coast. Some of the blockade-runners have been British-owned and some Chinese-owned ships registered in Hongkong.

One vessel flying the British flag is reported to have been fired upon and sunk with all hands aboard on August 9 off Taku Bar near Tientsin.

The *New York Times* correspondent in Canton reported on September 16 that the KMT cabinet last Thursday issued an order to its Navy to "tighten up" the blockade against ships entering liberated ports.

On September 18, the first two American ships to run the blockade into Shanghai, the *Flying Clipper* and the *Flying Independent*, entered the port within hours of each other. Aboard the *Flying Independent* were 817 bags of mail and 4,000 tons of general cargo, mainly cotton and chemicals, from Hongkong. The *North-China Daily News* reported that the *Flying Independent* brought its cargo from Hongkong at the rate of US$32.20 a ton. The *Flying Clipper* came from Taku Bar and brought little cargo and no mail.

* * *

UK Recognition Rumored

BRITAIN is recalling her Ambassador in China, Sir Ralph Stevenson, at present in Nanking. He said his return for consultations had been under consideration for some time.

From London comes the report that "in usually well-informed quarters" it is believed that the British Government favors a "frankly realistic" view of events in China and would support prompt *de jure* recognition of the People's Government on the grounds that the Liberation forces are already in control of the greater part of China. In coming to this conclusion the British Government is

This cartoon, from the Sin Wan Jih Pao, shows MacArthur, Chiang Kai-shek and General Yen Hsi-shan bearing a recruited Japanese soldier off to China. Yen's sign reads: "Recruiting Japanese soldiers to fight China. Salary US$50. Payment guaranteed."

known to be in touch with the other Commonwealth governments. The Indian Government, in particular, is believed to favor recognition of the People's Government of China at the earliest opportunity.

If no People's Government of China is proclaimed until after the present session of the United Nations is over, the existing Chinese KMT delegation may have some legal excuse to function for the term of the next Assembly. But a proclamation of a People's Government next month would pose directly the question of the legitimacy of the present KMT delegation. There is some talk of a crisis in the functioning of the Security Council if the question of valid Chinese representation is not settled. Foreign Minister, Ernest Bevin, and Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, are reported as discussing the problem of recognition in Washington now. If there is a divergence in views it may be traced to the fact, as is reported from Washington, that British business interests in China are apparently determined to hang on and see what can be done under the People's Government while American businessmen are divided on the issue. It is to be noted that British investments in China are at least ten times greater than American interests, according to figures given by the *London Times*.

* * *

American Petition

More than 100 Americans in Shanghai this week signed a petition to the US State Department asking that the United States Government take positive steps to aid in the restoration of shipping and resumption of normal trade with China and make possible the continuation of the traditional friendship of the American people for the people of China. The petition was deposited with the American Consulate-General in Shanghai for transmission to Secretary of State Dean Acheson. A covering letter to Secretary Acheson said the petition was offered as "one evidence of the growing sentiment among Americans here that the State Department must take positive action now to establish a sound basis for friendly relations with the new government that is being set up in China."

* * *

Sterling Devaluation

AFTER repeated denials that the pound sterling would be devalued, Britain this week announced that the rate of the pound would drop from US$4.03 to US$2.80, a reduction of 30½ percent. This announcement is regarded as the most sensational financial development in Britain since that country went off the gold standard in 1931.

The purpose of the devaluation is to stimulate exports from the sterling area to the dollar countries. At a lower sterling rate, British products can be purchased more cheaply in the dollar market, while dollar goods will become more expensive for Britain to buy. In this way, Britain hopes to sell more goods abroad and earn more dollars.

Britain's action is having repercussions not only on the Commonwealth sterling nations, but also on other

What Chinese Papers Say...

American Movies

DISCUSSING the current demand for censorship of American motion pictures, the *Ta Kung Pao* said editorially:

"The facts before our eyes are that obnoxious American motion pictures are still running rampant in Shanghai and are commanding large audiences. A certain part of our motion picture audience is still being intoxicated by the 'beautiful figure and alluring smile' of Rita Hayworth, is still applauding the Americans killing the Red Indians, or is still admiring the 'bravery' of Gary Cooper. . .

"In Hollywood, the fundamental guiding principles of production adopted by the studios are: 1) to make money; 2) to cover up the ugly aspects of capitalistic society while making a display of its 'virtues.' Naturally, there are also good American motion pictures possessed of a good ideology or of educational or scientific value, but these are definitely few and far between.

"In the people's new Shanghai, we stand in need of motion pictures of a healthy nature dealing with the true facts of life. At the present moment when it is our mission to undertake the reconstruction of a new Shanghai . . . we certainly should not permit obnoxious American motion pictures to run rampant in Shanghai. We, therefore, take this occasion to appeal to the Shanghai audience to refrain from blindly idolizing American motion pictures, to exercise good judgment, and to adopt a critical attitude."

* * *

Rampant State

THE *Wen Hui Pao* carried an article by the dramatist Chen Pei-cheng on the same subject. Pointing out the extent to which American movies control the cinema houses in Shanghai, the article said:

"According to statistics: during the month of July, a total of 211 films were shown in the cinema theaters of Shanghai. Of these 142 were American, representing 67 percent. In August, of the total of 316 films shown, 229 were American, representing 72 percent. The percentages have only been worked out on the number of films screened. If the number of showings and the number of people attending them were taken into consideration, the percentages would have been greater in favor of the American pictures. In other words, about 80 percent of Shanghai's cinema audience is being subjected to the poisonous effects of the propaganda carried out through the American pictures.

"What do the American films give us? On the one hand, we find dancing with accent on the display of pretty legs, swimming exhibitions by half naked females, crime detection and espionage work portraying ridiculous plots, tragedies of love which play on human feeling, and games of love which are deliberately made sophisticated and sexy. Social evils are covered up, and realities are distorted. The audience is prevented from having any conception of class distinctions. At least during the two hours they sit before the silver screen, they are made to forget all the contradictions in society.

"On the other hand, these pictures also show us the conquest of barbarians by the white race, the stupidity of the colored peoples, the courage and chivalry of the aristocrats and capitalists. There are also the planes, guns, tanks and warships of the imperialists arrayed in all their mighty glory before the eyes of the audience who are thus given an extra dose of the propaganda of imperialist military might.

"All these things, as the late Lu Hsün said, 'serve their purpose unconsciously. After seeing the brave and chivalrous films depicting scenes of war, one will unconsciously be led to feel the great might of the master and be content to remain a slave forever.'

"In Shanghai today when the six major tasks are being implemented, when the consumer city is to be converted into a productive metropolis, when efforts are being exerted for the building of the people's democratic republic, we find that American films, having the contents described above and constituting an instrument of imperialist aggression and an instrument of the capitalists to drug the minds of the people, are still running rampant. We can tolerate the situation no longer."

The article concludes by urging censorship of American films and explaining: "Film censorship is also a weapon. This weapon, in the hands of the Kuomintang reactionaries, obstructed the development of the motion picture industry of the people, while at the same time it helped to bring about the present situation wherein the American films run so rampant. But in the hands of the People's government, the weapon will succeed in suppressing the reactionary films and thereby foster the growth of the motion picture industry of the people. The question of 'freedom' is not involved here, for in a country where there is a people's democratic dictatorship, the imperialists are basically denied the 'freedom' to spread their poisonous germs."

In Chinese Magazines . . .

Outlook

AN interesting account of conditions in Yunnan province is contained in an article by Shen Li-shun in the September 10 issue of the *Outlook*. The article says the Kuomintang's control in Yunnan has progressively deteriorated since the Kunming banknote massacre last February (see *Review* March 5, 1949) until the province now "may be considered 'semi-liberated.'"

"Gold Yuan notes of fabulously large denominations are now wastepaper," the article says, "accepted by nobody but nevertheless paid to government functionaries as salary. The only use these unfortunates have for the notes is to sell them to peddlers who use them to make fans. Twelve banknotes make one fan which can be sold for about 20 cents silver. . .

"Since the Gold Yuan notes they receive are absolutely worthless, public functionaries and education workers have been forced, one after another, to take 'general leave.' This 'general leave taking' wave started in the universities and schools and soon spread to government organs. The authorities, unable to do anything about the situation, just left it alone.

"The next thing we knew was the selling of valuable assets in the government organs to realize funds for the employees' livelihood. The communications organs fared best, since they had vehicles, tires, accessories and gasoline which could be disposed of easily. The educational institutions, however, were not so fortunate. Who was there to offer money for their desks and benches!"

The article says the newspapers in Kunming also have undergone some changes since the February massacre, "although their expressions have mainly been confined to negative attempts to condemn the realities of the reactionary situation prevailing in the province with some words of praise for the liberated areas. The most amusing incident connected with the Kunming press, however," it adds, "has been the case of the employees of the bogus *Central News Agency*. Unable to maintain their livelihood from their meager incomes, these employees started of their own volition to monitor the news releases of the *New China News Agency* and sell mimeographed copies to the newspapers."

* * *

World Culture

THE *World Culture* magazine of September 9 charges that Britain and America have aggressive designs on Tibet. An article written by Hu Chin interprets the recent expulsion of Kuomintang personnel from the area as follows:

". . . The Tibetan local authorities are not acting out of their opposition to the reactionary racial policy and oppressive rule enforced by the Kuomintang reactionaries during the past decades. Nor are they rising in support of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in its victorious march toward the Southwest and other parts of the country. Rather they are implementing a traitorous policy in carrying out measures to enable the imperialists to annex Chinese territory."

The article then traces the history of British and American activities in Tibet. "In the last days of the 19th century," it says, "W. Hastings, the governor of India, was already directing his covetous eyes toward Tibet, India's neighbor. In 1860, British imperialism began to place Sikkim, a vassal state of Tibet, under its influence. In 1876, under the pretext of an incident involving British consular officers on the Burma-Yunnan borders, China was forced into signing the Chefoo Treaty which permitted the British to enter Tibet for 'exploration' purposes. In 1888, the people of Sikkim, not wanting to be subservient to British rule, cut off the British trade route. British imperialism sent an expeditionary force into Tibet and occupied Sikkim. In 1890 China was forced into signing the Tibetan-Indian Treaty in which Sikkim was recognized as a British protectorate.

"British influence over Tibet grew steadily. In 1904, taking advantage of the Russo-Japanese war and the Anglo-Japanese alliance, British imperialism invaded Tibet a second time and forced Tibet into signing a peace treaty, opening trade stations, exacting a huge indemnity and attempting to undermine China's suzerainty over the area. Two years later, China was forced into signing the Sino-British Treaty on Tibet, upholding the peace treaty entered into with Tibet but nevertheless acknowledging China's sovereignty over Tibet. . .

"Following the second world war, American imperialism in the wake of its operations in the seizure of markets in the Far East (including India), began to participate in aggression against Tibet. American imperialism sent spies to Tibet and attempted, through the hands of the higher strata of the country, to assume actual control of Tibet. Today, British imperialism has become a hireling of American imperialism, and India is in effect in the control of American imperialism. These two powers have now joined forces in their efforts to oppose, impede and sabotage the over-all liberation of the Chinese people."

countries whose currencies are tied to the dollar, either directly or through sterling. Australia, South Africa, Eire and New Zealand all have announced a lowering of their pound sterling rates, and Denmark, India and Norway have followed suit in devaluating their currencies. The Netherlands, Sweden and France are considering similar action.

* * *

Hungarian Trials

IN Hungary, eight prominent Hungarian and Yugoslav citizens are being tried on charges of spying for the US and Yugoslav governments and plotting to overthrow the Hungarian government. The defendants include a former Hungarian foreign minister, a former chief of staff of the Hungarian Army, a former charge d'affaires of the Yugoslav legation in Budapest, and the former central personnel secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party. The trial is being observed by some 60 foreign press correspondents as well as representatives of the British, American and French legations.

As the trial opened, the first defendant, Laszlo Rajk, former minister of the interior and later foreign minister of the Hungarian government, confessed to all charges. In a detailed four hour account, he described how he had been a spy within the Hungarian Communist Party since 1931, following his arrest and subsequent release by Admiral Horthy's political police. In this capacity, he said, he had gone to Spain during the civil war to sabotage the Hungarian batallion of the International Brigade and had wound up in a French internment camp where he first made contact with Yugoslav Communists and later with the French military intelligence.

When the war came, Rajk testified, he made contact with an American agent whom he named as Noel N. Field who offered to help him return to Hungary to sabotage the illegal Communist underground. He also was approached by the Gestapo and agreed to work for the Germans, first in Germany and later in Hungary.

At the end of the war, he said, he had plotted with the then American military attache in Budapest, Colonel George Kovacs, to set up a right wing government. He also began to spy for Tito after the Yugoslav minister of interior, Colonel-General Alexander Rancovic, showed him a photostatic copy of the police pledge he had given in 1931 and threatened to expose his prewar activities unless he agreed to work for Tito.

Rajk said the Yugoslav plan was to separate the European countries from the Soviet Union and place them in a federation to be ruled from Belgrade and supported by the United States. He said Rancovic wanted Hungarian police and army missions of trusted men to be sent to Yugoslavia for indoctrination and planned to have the entire Hungarian administrative and political apparatus permeated with agents. He said Rancovic's idea was that the United States would distract the Soviet Union when the time was ripe for a coup so that she could not intervene. After the coup, Rajk was to have become prime minister.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 43)

mean private ownership of the means of production which is an admission that they support capitalism despite their earlier denial.

Then the bishops say that they consider "private property" as "being the natural basis of human society." Why is it natural? Why is capitalism any more natural than socialism, or the monarchial system? Marxists point out that there is a rule according to which society develops. Maybe this method of developing is "natural," but how can we say that any particular stage of that development is the "natural" basis of society? Perhaps it is natural at a certain time and a certain place, but can it be considered natural for all time?

The Marxists say, and with great logic, that everything, including society, is constantly changing. We know it changed in the past and that it is changing now. At one time people did not have the concept of private property Then, at a later date, this idea became current. Later on the idea of private ownership of the means of production became accepted and we had capitalism. Now, other ideas are becoming popular and the people in quite a few countries —including China—have decided to move on to another stage in the development of human society.

Thus, I am unable to see how the Czechoslovak bishops can designate one particular period of history and say that a certain condition which exists in that period is the "natural" basis for human society. If the bishops can say that of one period, I can just as justifiably say it of another. I could, for example, say that the possession of slaves is the natural basis of society because this system existed when the Greeks ruled the world.

I would be interested in hearing some further expression of opinion upon this matter.

JOHN C.

Shanghai
September 18, 1949

Will Devaluation Help Britain?

THE devaluation of the pound sterling to US$2.80, a 30 percent drop in value in terms of US dollars, came this week as a general shock to people throughout the world, especially those living in countries whose currencies are tied to the British pound.

Press dispatches from Washington and London make it clear that the British authorities made this move as a last resort only after all other possible avenues had been explored. In fact, Sir Stafford Cripps, chancellor of the exchequer, stated that this step "is the most serious that the government could possibly take, and we are taking it because our present sterling-dollar difficulties are, we believe, otherwise insoluble."

Earlier, some quarters had predicted that Britain might attempt to solve her economic difficulties by cutting away from the United States and concentrating upon trade with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe whose economies, largely, are complementary to that of Britain. However, the British Government, perhaps for political reasons, apparently felt unable to take advantage of such trade which can be carried on without American dollars.

The United States, it appears, had long been pressing the move upon Britain as a price for further economic aid and for a promise of relaxation of US tariff restrictions. Dispatches from London reported that it had been made clear that Britain could draw no dollars from the International Monetary Fund unless she devalued and cut government spending.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Britain for some time has been under fire from both government and private circles in America for what has been termed her "wasteful" and "economically unsound" expenditures for such programs as nationalization of industry, socialized medicine, etc.

It has been reported that many Amerian firms, expecting devaluation for several months, have been holding off placing normal orders for British goods until the pound was cheapened. Thus one of the immediate after effects of devaluation will certainly be a rush of orders from America. This may last, as one industry spokesman put it, until raw material stocks on hand are exhausted. When this occurs and fresh stocks have to be imported from America with the now devalued pound, raw material costs will move upward, thus pushing up Britain's selling price.

The other factor in production costs—wages—presents the big question mark. If British labor costs can be held at the present level in terms of pounds, then the devaluation may enable British manufacturers to sell in America at a somewhat lower price than heretofore, even counting the increase in raw material costs.

However, there are already indications that labor intends to press for increased wages to compensate for the higher cost of living. Sir Stafford himself has admitted that the higher cost of American raw materials will affect the cost of living. Bread, for example, is to be increased from 4½d to 6d per loaf. *Reuters* financial editor, Sydney Gambell, predicted that the overall cost of living could be expected to rise about five percent in the next fortnight.

It thus seems that the best Britain can hope for is a temporary respite from her chronic dollar shortage headache. Before long some further remedy must be found. The next step may well be to trim some of the profit from one end of the economy or the other. That is, reduce profits or wages.

Present indications are that the government is already leaning toward the latter course. Sir Stafford appealed to all quarters in Britain to refrain from any action likely to increase the cost of living, hinting that the government felt some anxiety over the prospect of a drive by labor for a wage hike to offset the anticipated five percent increase in the cost of living resulting from the devaluation.

One further factor to be considered in connection with the prospect for increased sales in America which the devaluation might make possible for a short period is the fact that the US has gradually been cutting down upon its imports from the rest of the world as her own economy began to show signs of leaking at the seams. According to latest reports US imports, which have been falling monthly, are now down 21 percent from the postwar high.

Another important point, which may in some measure account for the enthusiasm with which the move was generally greeted in America, is the advantage this will give American capital over British capital in the world's investment markets. With British capital reduced by one-third, US holders of surplus capital, especially if the new proposal for government insurance for private capital invested overseas is adopted, will undoubtedly move even further into areas previously dominated by British capital.

While it is still a bit early to get full reactions and to observe some of the immediate results and trends, it appears likely that the move will not result in any long-term easing of Britain's position as one of the many nations which is tied to the US dollar, but which, because of increasing economic contradictions with the all-powerful United States, finds it increasingly difficulty to balance the books without American loans.

The Review's English Lesson XCVIII

Of Ships, and Shoes, and Sealing Wax . . .

SINCE Noah made his famous voyage to escape a phenomenon which put an end to his accustomed mode of life, seafaring has had a long and honorable history. It is not surprising that the profession, as with many others, has developed its own special language. Some seafaring terms have come to be used in landlubber's talk, as for example in the common expression, " . . . to the bitter end." Originally, the bitter end referred to the end of the anchor cable or chain which was fastened to the bitts, or inside the chain locker; but as used above, no doubt because of the obvious connotations of the word "bitter," it means to the last extremity, no matter how difficult or calamitous.

Although we do not imagine our readers are going to make a career of going to sea, it seems timely to point out a few of the more common terms on shipboard and their meanings, so that, if they do make a sea voyage they will feel more at home.

* * *

TO begin with, a ship is a ship and never a boat; a boat is a small craft, propelled usually by oars or paddles, sometimes by sail or motor. Ships carry life boats for the safety of passengers in the event of a disaster at sea, such as collision, foundering in a violent storm, fire, etc. Do not try to compliment the captain by telling him what a beautiful boat he has.

The English language has long since lost the distinction of gender in common nouns, with a few exceptions: one of them is "ship," which is referred to as "she," although curiously enough ships have come to bear such unfeminine names as "Andrew G. Pugby."

Directions aboard ship are rather important. The end that generally goes first is not called the "front," but the "bow," pronounced "bough." The end that goes last is not the back, but the "stern." If you walk (or roll, depending upon the weather) toward the bow, you go forward; if toward the stern, you go aft. If you go to a lower deck, you go below; if you are in your cabin, below, you go up (or out) on deck. Facing the bow, your right is the starboard side of the ship, indicated at night by a green light; the port side is on your left, and the light is red.

The surfaces you stand or walk upon are called decks, or the deck—never the floor. This applies to the interior of the ship, cabins, saloons and alleys (corridors), as well as the exterior. If you are on one deck, with another deck over you, the latter's underside is called "the overhead," not the ceiling. And there are no walls —only the side or bulkheads.

Ordinarily, if one is lucky enough to obtain passage on a freighter, he is allowed more freedom of movement around the ship than if he sails on a regular passenger liner. Of course, under special circumstances, a ship may carry more passengers than she does normally, which makes for crowded sleeping quarters, standing in lines for meals, etc. In such cases, crew members are overworked and the passengers see less of the ship than they would otherwise.

The crew's quarters are usually below the main deck, surrounding the galley (kitchen) and upper part of the engine room, which extends down nearly to the bottom. Passenger ships frequently have spaces for general cargo (holds) fore and aft, and sometimes for refrigerated cargo (reefers).

* * *

SO, you are ready to go aboard. You clamber up the gangway (gang-plank) or accomodation ladder and ask the purser or steward for your cabin. If you are sharing it with several others, the bunks quite possibly might be of the pipe-and-chain variety, made of a pipe frame slung from the bulk-head and covered with canvas. There isn't much place to stow your gear (put your luggage), so it is best to mark all except essentials for the hold, where, if it is not well crated, it will probably be stove in (smashed).

If you are lucky, your cabin (sometimes holds are fitted up with temporary bunks) has a private lavatory (head), and is "outside," i.e., has a porthole (window) opening out into the deck or sea.

Modern passenger ships and freighters are driven by steam turbines, which are practically vibrationless and produce only a high whine when operating. But many ships are still "up and downers"—driven by triple-expansion reciprocating steam engines, which produce a gentle, regular vibration or beat that can be felt all through the ship. Depending upon your taste, it can be either soothing or annoying. Since there are three beats to a revolution of the screw (propellor), with one usually accented, you can count the revolutions per minute and roughly gauge the speed if you know the pitch of the screw, i.e., the advance made with each revolution.

A ship does not go so many miles an hour; she makes so many knots. A knot is a nautical unit of speed per hour; a speed of 10 knots is roughly equivalent to 11.5 miles per hour.

In addition to the vibration of the engines, a ship has larger motions. Heading directly into a sea (waves), a ship's bow and stern rise and fall; this is called pitching. Broadside seas produce rolling, and quartering seas (waves coming at the ship at an angle) cause a ship to pitch and roll at the same time, in a circular up and down motion that, in turn, frequently produces seasickness in the passengers, for which there is no effective remedy.

Finally, the usual parting words to one about to sail are borrowed from the French: "Bon voyage"—have a pleasant voyage!

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